

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 30 are in the application. Claims 1, 9, 11, 19, 21 and 29 are independent.

Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for allegedly containing poor-quality figures. Applicants are therefore submitting herewith new figures. Approval thereof, and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings, is respectfully requested in view of this submission.

Claim 9 was objected to for not containing an "intended use or purpose" in the preamble. The undersigned is unaware of any requirement to state a use or purpose in the preamble of a claim and, therefore, respectfully traverses this objection. If the objection is maintained, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner provide either regulatory or statutory support for the requirement to state an intended use or purpose.

Claim 30 was objected to for an improper dependency. That has been corrected. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,220,512 (Watkins). As shown above, Applicants have amended the claims to define the invention with greater clarity. In view of these clarifications, reconsideration and withdrawal of the art rejection is respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 1 defines a method of modeling a logic design, which comprises creating a graphical representation of the logic design, receiving a selection that corresponds to a type of simulation code, and generating simulation code based on the graphical representation and the selection.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 1, particularly with respect to receiving a selection that corresponds to a type of simulation code and to generating simulation code based, in part, on the selection.

In this regard, Watkins describes a system for simulating circuit designs. The Watkins system stores, in a database, software objects that define the operation of corresponding circuit elements (e.g., a flip-flop). According to the Watkins system, graphical circuit elements may be selected and interconnected to define a simulated circuit, and the simulated circuit may be stimulated with inputs to generate corresponding outputs (see Figs. 3 and 4 of Watkins). What Watkins does not disclose, however, is the ability or to select a type of simulation code, much less to generate simulation code based on such a selection. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Watkins.

Amended independent claims 11 and 21 are article of manufacture and apparatus claims, respectively, that roughly correspond to claim 1. These claims are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.

Amended independent claim 9 defines a method that includes displaying a menu comprised of different types of functional block diagrams, receiving an input selecting one of the different types of functional block diagrams, receiving a selection that corresponds to a type of simulation code, retrieving a selected functional block diagram, creating a graphical representation of a logic design using the selected functional block diagram, and generating simulation code to simulate operation of the logic design based on the graphical representation and the selection. Creating the graphical representation of the logic design includes

interconnecting the selected functional block diagram with one or more other functional block diagrams to generate a model of a logic design, and defining the selected functional block diagram using the type of simulation code if a function of the functional block diagram is undefined when retrieved.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 9. More specifically, as explained above with respect to claim 1, Watkins does not disclose or suggest receiving a selection that corresponds to a type of simulation code or generating simulation code based, in part, on the selection. Accordingly, Watkins could not possibly anticipate, or render obvious, the elements of claim 9 that include, or depend on, such features. Claim 9 is therefore believed to be patentable over Watkins.

Amended independent claims 19 and 29 are article of manufacture and apparatus claims, respectively, that roughly correspond to claim 9. These claims are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 9.

Each of the dependent claims is also believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim and, as such, has not been discussed specifically herein.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as

an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below. All telephone calls should be directed to the undersigned at 617-521-7896.


No additional fees are believed to be due for this Amendment; however, if any fees are due, please charge them to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 10559-607001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

January 28, 2005

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906


Paul A. Pysher
Reg. No. 40,780